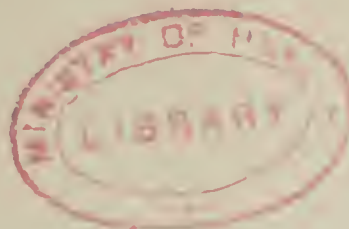


THE BOROUGH OF WAREHAM.
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1940.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health

E.J. O'KEEFFE, B.A., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.Sanitary Inspector
(Part time appointment)

Mr. J. BRIDLE.

Health Visitor
(Dorset County Council
appointment.)

Miss ELLIOTT.

The Medical Officer of Health also holds the appointments of Medical Officer of Health to the Swanage Urban District Council, Wareham and Purbeck Rural District Council, and Assistant Medical Officer to Dorset County Council.

Notes
Sentine 3
16/4

Public Health Office,
12a. Institute Road,
Swanage.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Wareham.

Your Worship, Miss Plowman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough of Wareham for the year 1940.

The report is limited, in accordance with the direction of the Minister of Health, to statistics, important alterations, and improvements or developments during the year.

The health of the district remained satisfactory, although the notification rates for diphtheria, whooping cough, pneumonia and erysipelas was higher than the corresponding figures for England and Wales.

During the year under review the main items of interest were, the extension by the Council of the scheme for diphtheria immunisation so as to include school children of all ages, and the commencement of work on the scheme for improving the quality of the water supply and making an additional supply available.

I should like to express my thanks to yourselves for your consideration during the year, and also to Mr. Bridle for his co-operation and the efficient manner in which he has carried out his duties as Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to remain,
Your Worship, Miss Plowman and
Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E.J. O'KEEFE.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area. - 710 Acres.

Population. Registrar-General's estimate of
 (a) Resident Population, Mid. 1940)
 (b) Average Population appropriate to) 2,448
 the calculation of death rates)

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to the rate-
 book 694
 Rateable value £14,312
 Sum represented by a penny rate £52-14-5

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		
Live Births	) Legitimate	40	17	23	) Birth rate per 1,000	
	) Illegitimate	3	1	2	) estimated resident	
					) population	17.5
Still Births	) Legitimate	-	-	-	) Rate per 1,000 (live	
	) Illegitimate	-	-	-	) and still)	
					) births	Nil
Deaths		30	13	17	) Death rate per 1,000	
					) estimated average	
					) population	12.2

Area Comparability Factor - 0.87. Corrected Death Rate - 10.6.

Live Births. (For the purpose of calculation of infant and maternal mortality) :-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Legitimate	40	17	23
Illegitimate	3	1	2

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list) :-

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total</u> <u>(live and still) births.</u>
No. 29. Puer: & post-abortion:		
sepsis	Nil	Nil
No. 30. Other Puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil

Deaths of infants under one year of age :-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Legitimate	2	2	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Death rate of infants under one year of age :-

All infants per 1,000 live births	46.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	50.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	6
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea (all ages)	-

Birth, Death, Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates
during the Year 1940.

	Births per 1,000 Population		Deaths All Causes per 1,000 Population	Deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age per 1,000 Live Births	Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births		
	Live Births	Still Births				Puer-peral Sepsis	Others	Total
England and Wales.	14.6	0.55	14.3	55	4.6	0.52	1.64	2.16
148 Smaller Towns estimated resident population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census.	15.7	0.55	2.8	54	4.4	Not available		
WAREHAM BOROUGH.	17.5	Nil	10.6	46.6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

There were no specially noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity during the year, nor any conditions of occupation or environment which would appear to have a prejudicial effect on health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Ambulance Service.

During the year the Council made arrangements with the Wareham and Purbeck Rural District Council for the provision of ambulance service for the Borough. The service, which is administered by the Wareham and Purbeck Rural District Council, does not provide for the removal of cases of infectious disease.

There has been no other alteration in the health services.

SANITARY PROVISIONS OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

Work was commenced on the scheme for installing an aeration tower, line treatment tank and rapid pressure filters for the treatment of water and pumps and mains necessary for bringing water from the new well, which had been sunk near the river.

Samples of water were taken regularly for bacteriological examination. Total number of samples taken was 33. In every case the result was satisfactory.

Two samples of water were taken from house taps in the town for chemical analysis. The results were satisfactory except for the presence of iron in quantities sufficient to be detected by the palate. When the new treatment plant now being installed is working, this defect will be corrected.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total number of inspections	83
Number of informal notices	27
" " " " complied with	27
" " " " outstanding	-
Number of statutory notices	-

HOUSING.

Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year.

- | | | |
|----|---|----|
| 1. | (a) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 12 |
| | (b) No. of inspections made for the purpose | 25 |
| 2. | (a) No. of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 | - |
| | (b) No. of inspections made for the purpose | - |
| 3. | No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | - |
| 4. | No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. | 10 |

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service
of Formal Notices.

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	10
--	----

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

No. action was taken under the Housing Act, 1936 or the Public Health Acts.

Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

No overcrowding of dwelling-houses was discovered during the year, and no action was necessary under this part of the Housing Act.

New Houses.

Total No. of new houses erected during 1940	2
No. erected during 1940 with State Assistance:-	
(1) By Local Authority	-
(2) By Other Bodies or Persons	-
No. of houses owned by Local Authority	103
Approximate No. of working class houses in the district	439

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

The following are particulars with regard to Cowsheds and Dairies:-

Cowsheds and Dairies.

Number of Persons on Register at end of 1940	5
" " Dairy Farms and other dairy premises on Register at end of 1940	3
Number of Dairy Farms inspected during 1940	3
" " inspections during 1940	24
" " informal notices served	8
" " notices complied with	8

There are no milk shops in the Borough. No samples of milk were taken during the year for bacteriological examination.

There are no milk pasteurising plants in the Borough and no graded milks are produced.

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of slaughterhouses	3
" " visits to slaughterhouses	16
" " " " meat shops	37
" " " " places where food is prepared	70
" " premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of preserved food (Sect: 14 (1)(b). Food and Drugs Act, 1938)	7
Number of premises registered for the sale, manufacture, or storage of ice cream (Sect: 14 (1)(a). Food and Drugs Act, 1938)	10

Total amount of meat condemned during the year was 340 lbs.

Slaughtering of animals was discontinued at the Wareham Slaughterhouses in January, and meat was sent into the Borough from a central slaughterhouse outside the district.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following are particulars of cases notified during the year:-

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Age Groups	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever.	1	1	15-20	-
Diphtheria.	1	-	?	-
	1	1	5-10	-
	2	2	10-15	1
Pneumonia.	1	-	?	-
	1	-	2-3	-
	1	-	10-15	-
	1	-	45-55	-
	2	-	55-65	-
	1	-	65 & over	-
Measles.	1	-	5-10	-
	1	-	10-15	-
	1	-	15-20	-
Whooping Cough.	1	-	1-2	-
	3	-	5-10	-
Erysipelas.	1	-	35-45	-
	1	-	65 & over	-
Dysentery (Some)	1	-	?	-
	1	-	65 & over	-

Notification Rates per 100,000 Civil Population.

Infectious Disease	England & Wales	148 Smaller Towns	WAREHAM
Enteric.	0.07	0.10	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	0.32	0.29	0.00
Scarlet Fever.	1.63	1.57	0.40
Whooping Cough.	1.34	1.35	1.63
Diphtheria.	1.16	1.21	1.63
Erysipelas.	0.33	0.30	0.81
Smallpox.	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles.	10.24	9.99	1.25
Pneumonia.	1.20	1.00	2.85

Although the notification rates for Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Pneumonia and Erysipelas were higher than the corresponding figures for England and Wales, there were no serious outbreaks of infectious disease during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The arrangements for immunising children against diphtheria were amended during the year so as to include school children up to the age of 10 years. The Medical Officer of Health to be responsible for the carrying out of immunisation of pre-school children at the County Council Child Welfare Centre, and the immunisation of school children to be carried out by local medical practitioners at the schools, at the following scale of fees:-

Under 20 children injected per session	10/6d.
20 to 40 " " " "	21/-.
Over 40 " " " "	31/6d.

As a result of the Ministry of Health Circular No. 2230 of 7th December, 1940, dealing with Diphtheria Prophylaxis, the Council decided to extend their scheme to include all children of school age, and also to display posters and distribute leaflets to bring to the notice of parents the importance of having their children immunised. The result of this publicity will no doubt be reflected in the number of children immunised in the year 1941.

The following are particulars of the number of children immunised during 1940:-

Number of children who at 31st December, 1940 had received a full course of immunisation ...	Course completed between 1st Jan., 1940 and 31st Dec., 1940	
	Age under 5 years	Age 5 years and over but under 15
	3	-
Number of children who had been inoculated but had not completed full course of immunisation at 31st December, 1940 ...	Inoculation begun between 1st Jan., 1940 and 31st Dec., 1940	
	Age under 5 years	Age 5 years and over but under 15
	4	-

Percentage of child population immunised.

		At 31st December, 1940	
		Age under 5 years	Age 5 years and over but under 15
Estimated population of children	...	219	500
Estimated percentage of child population who at date shown-			
(a) Had received complete course of immunisation	... ..	20.09	0.20
(b) Had been inoculated but had not completed course	... ..	1.82	0.00

Four cases of diphtheria were notified and one child died from this disease during 1940. None of the cases had been given protective inoculations against diphtheria.

It is hoped that as a result of the National Publicity Campaign parents will appreciate the value of immunisation.

Tuberculosis

No action was necessary during the year under Sec. 172 Public Health Act 1936, or under The Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of all deaths during 1940:

Age Periods		New Cases				Deaths			
		Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...								
1	...								
5	...								
10	...								
15	...								
20	...								
25	...								
35	...								
45	...	1	1						
55	...					1			
65 and upwards	...					1			
TOTALS	...	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-

Both persons who died from tuberculosis had previously been notified as suffering from the disease.

Cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the Register of Notifications on 31st December, 1940:-

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Cases
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
3	4	7	1	2	3	10

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The usual inspections of factories were made, no defects were found and no notices were issued.